

February 27, 2004

Assistant Commissioner of Patents

Washington, DC 20231

PROTEST UNDER 37 CFR 1.291(a)

Re: Method and apparatus for providing on-demand
electronic advertising

US File # **20010013125** Filed: April 12, 2001

Sirs:

Recently I found the above referenced patent filing and believe this filing has
NOT issued in the U.S. The US File # is **20010013125**

I am voicing an objection as a concerned third party and as a U.S. Citizen. The patent filing describes at great length an advertising delivery system dependent upon a database maintained at the client level. The inventor refers to a traditional client/server system as a "computer system" presumably residing in a settop box connected to a television. Within this system, he builds and stores (Claim 10) a database containing a plurality of advertisements dynamically retained at the client terminal and triggered by user channel selections or interactions passively reactive to other resident programs (0008) The system is described in paragraphs (0007) (0008) (0009) and others.

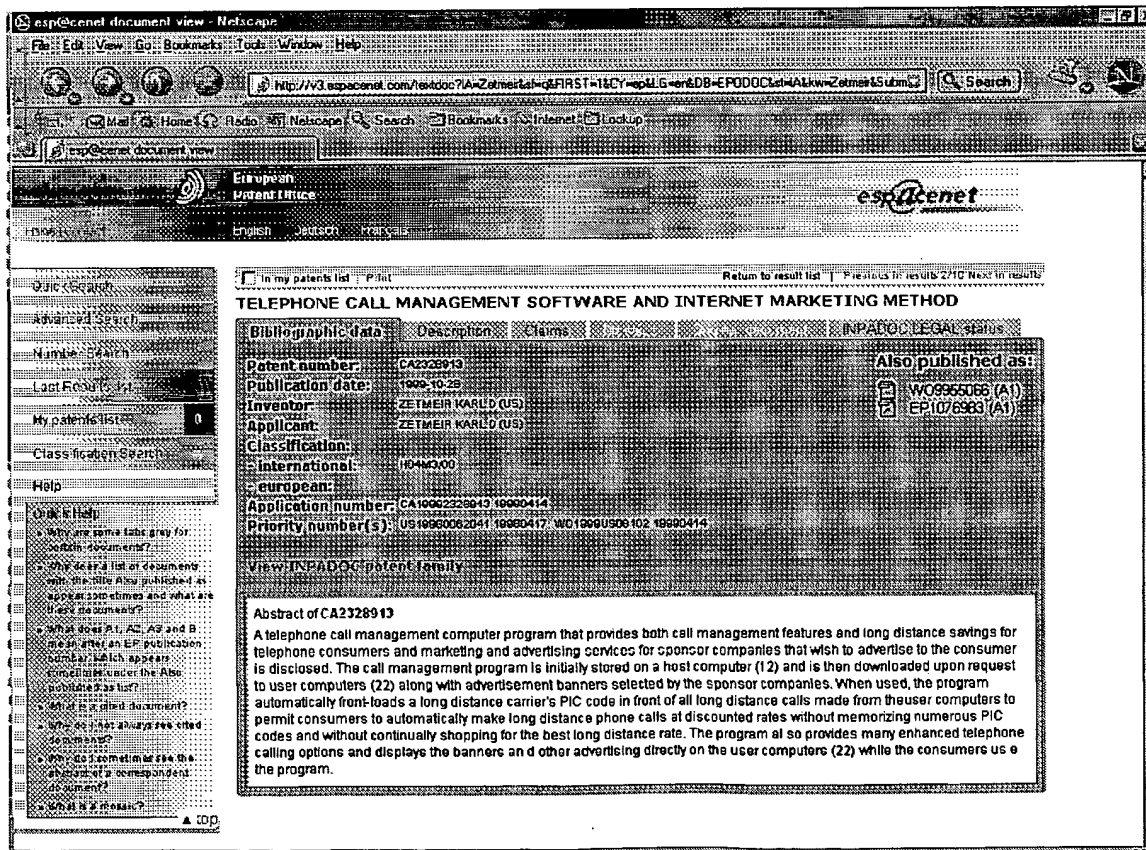
Relevant Claims are 10, 11, 13 and others. The abstract reads in part, "On-demand electronic advertising information is provided for items used in scenes of television programs. The advertising information is received along with broadcasts of associated television programs. Selected advertisement modes alert a viewer when advertising information is available for an item displayed in a scene of the television program broadcast. The viewer alert comprises displayed marks superimposed over the broadcast of the television program."

Selecting a channel or show on television which is the equivalent to a URL into a browser locator window that makes a match with an advertising database maintained at the client system in the remotely controlled and updated database (0008) and in the event a match is made by comparing, an appropriate advertisement is displayed or inserted into the video stream even superimposing over the existing TV display or opening a PIP (pop up) to display the ad. (0009)

This is referred to as “pull” advertising as a voluntary action (channel or content selection) on the part of a user interacts with a pre-established client database and a targeted ad is displayed.

1. US Patent 6,141,010 ... similar technology
2. Gator.com (recently changed to Claria.com) has been marketing such a system since 1998 or 1999
3. WO9955066 (A1) or EP1076983 (A1) ... similar technology

I believe the Examiner should look very closely at the Claims made and judge accordingly.



United States Patent: 6,141,010 - Netscape

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United States Patent: 6,141,010

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United States Patent
Hoyle

6,141,010
October 31, 2000

Computer interface method and apparatus with targeted advertising

Abstract

A method and apparatus for providing an automatically upgradeable software application that includes targeted advertising based upon demographics and user interaction with the computer. The software application is a graphical user interface that includes a display region used for banner advertising that is downloaded from time to time over a network such as the Internet. The software application is accessible from a server via the Internet and demographic information on the user is acquired by the server and used for determining what banner advertising will be sent to the user. The software application further targets the advertisements in response to normal user interaction, or use, of the computer. Associated with each banner advertisement is a set of data that is used by the software application in determining when a particular banner is to be displayed. This includes the specification of certain programs that the user may have so that, when the user runs the program (such as a spreadsheet program), an advertisement will be displayed that is relevant to that program (such as an advertisement for a stock brokerage). This provides two-tiered, real-time targeting of advertising--both demographically and reactively. The software application includes programming that accesses the server on occasion to determine if one or more components of the application need upgrading to a newer version. If so, the components are downloaded and installed without requiring any input or action by the user.

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Claria - Corporate Overview - Overview - Netscape

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http://www.claria.com/companyinfo/

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Claria - Corporate Overview - Overview

CLARIA

CORPORATE OVERVIEW

- CORPORATE OVERVIEW
 - Overview
 - News Room
 - Management Team
 - Employment
- ADVERTISE
- PRODUCTS & SERVICES
- CONTACT US

Overview

■ Claria Corporation Overview

Claria Corporation is the leader in online behavioral marketing, serving over 38 million consumers and more than 900 Advertisers – including over 80 Fortune 1000 companies. Claria publishes advertising messages for top tier companies and agencies to consumers who are part of the GAIN Network, Claria's network of over 38 million consumers who agree to receive advertising based on their actual online behavior.

Unlike traditional demographic targeting, Claria's behavioral marketing model combines powerful insights into consumer behavior and the ability to deliver contextually targeted messages. The relevancy of the messages drives click-through and conversion rates up to 40 times higher than traditional banner ads – boosting campaign results to unprecedented levels. The difference is Claria's deep insights into consumer online behavior. Claria allows advertisers to target consumers based on their individual needs and interests resulting in industry leading ROI, not mass demographically targeted Web site populations.

In addition to its advertising network, Claria provides marketing research and business insights through its Feedback Research division. Feedback Research delivers in-depth analytics of consumer Web usage patterns across the entire Internet that cannot be attained via any other research provider. It also provides full service custom marketing research to Fortune 1000 clients. With exclusive access to the GAIN Network's 38 million consumers, Feedback Research surveys hard to reach consumers, based on their individual online behavior, quickly and cost-effectively.

■ History

Claria was founded in 1998 as The Gator Corporation to deliver the promise of one-to-one marketing on the Internet. The guiding vision was to develop a massive consumer audience by offering valuable web/software content for free in exchange for the right to show highly targeted advertising based on consumers' anonymous surfing behavior. Launched in June 1999, the Gator eWallet was the company's first free ad-supported software product, and it quickly grew to become the most popular product in its category.

By November 1999, Claria had revolutionized the online advertising industry by introducing its contextual and behavioral relevant online advertising model. This new advertising method resulted in unparalleled ROI for advertisers.

Claria headquarters are located in Redwood City, California, with U.S. offices in Los Angeles, Chicago, New York, Detroit, Austin, and International offices in the U.K and Asia. Claria is backed by top-tier venture capitalists such as Greylock, Technology Crossover Ventures, U.S. Venture Partners, Investor AB and Crosslink Capital.